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Imagery analysis report

Increased Readiness of the 128th Motorized Rifle Division Near Polish Border (S)

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INCREASED READINESS OF THE 128TH MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION NEAR POLISH BORDER (S)

1. (S/D) Increased activity levels, suggesting an increased readiness posture, have been observed [] at installations housing the 128th Motorized Rifle Division (MRD) of the 38th Army in the Carpathian Military District of the USSR.¹ This division participated in the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and, because of its proximity and readiness level, might be an early participant if an invasion of Poland is initiated (Figure 1). The activity levels which suggest an increased readiness posture in the motorized rifle regiment (MRR) of the 128th MRD garrisoned at Mukachevo Headquarters MRD/Army Barracks AL-2 [] are described in this report. The activity reported is similar to activity seen in other installations associated with the 128th MRD. The report also serves as an explanation of how activity levels within combat divisions are determined.

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2. (S/D) The 128th MRD, a category II unit, is equipped with most or all of its equipment and personnel. This division also has adequate covered storage for most of its equipment. Regimental elements of the 128th MRD have been seen numerous times since 1976. Vehicles were usually in covered storage sheds, and imagery indicated that only small numbers of vehicles were routinely moved into the regimental vehicle maintenance areas for periodic maintenance. Historically, a significant increase in the number of vehicles was observed in front of the vehicle storage sheds and in the regimental vehicle maintenance area when the regiment was preparing to depart or was returning to garrison.

3. (S/D) [] routine activity was observed at Mukachevo AL-2 (Figure 2). A small number of vehicles (elements of an armored personnel carrier—APC—company) was removed from their storage sheds, and some vehicles were in the regimental vehicle maintenance area. There was a general lack of vehicular movement and equipment parked in the open at this MRR.

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4. (S/D) A slight increase in activity was observed in the MRR area [] (Figure 3). A group of trucks was being formed into a convoy, an increased number of vehicles was removed from their storage sheds, and an increased number of vehicles was in the regimental vehicle maintenance area. In general, an increase of vehicular movement was observed throughout the MRR area. This activity alone was not sufficient to suggest an increased readiness posture or immediate deployment and would be reported as increased levels of activity.

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5. (S/D) A high level of activity was observed [] (Figure 4). Elements of both a BMP APC-equipped motorized rifle battalion and a tank battalion were in front of their storage sheds. Other vehicles usually not observed included a BRDM antitank guided missile (ATGM) battery, an MTU-20 tank-launched scissors bridge, armored recovery vehicles (ARV), buses, and fuel trucks. An increased number of vehicles was observed in the regimental vehicle maintenance area, and, generally, extensive movement of vehicles was evident throughout the regimental area. Because some units of the 128th MRD were observed returning from a divisional exercise to their respective garrisons [] it was determined that the [] activity probably represented an increased readiness posture.

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6. (S/D) [] the high activity level at Mukachevo was continuing, and at least one small vehicle convoy was discerned.

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FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF 128TH MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION, CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR

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DOCUMENTS

1. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order of Battle (GOB)—USSR (U)*, Sep 79 (SECRET/WNINTEL)
2. NPIC. Z-20103/80, IAR-A244/80, *Unusual Activity in the 128th Motorized Rifle Division, Carpathian Military District, USSR (S)*, Sep 80 (SECRET

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